All children, and staff, are very excited about the Christmas holidays and it is fair to say that we are all very much ready for them! This week was the turn for KS1 to shine and they certainly did. ‘Lights, Camel, Action’ was breath-taking and who doesn't like a ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ themed nativity? Next week it is the turn of KS2 to perform. I am very much looking forward to the carol concert in the church on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, the Parent Fund was launched and I want to thank the 79 families that have already signed up. This a fantastic take up in the first week and we are incredibly thankful for your generosity. The Parent Fund goes towards enriching the curriculum and providing memorable experiences for your children. It is not too late to sign up. Please go to www.localgiving.org and search for Hollymount. It really is that easy. Remember to tick ‘Gift Aid’ if you are a tax payer as an additional 28p in every £1 you donate will be added at NO cost to you.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone for the last week of term on Monday.

Halal food at lunch
I had a very productive meeting with Chartwells this week. They are the company that provide our school lunches and they have agreed that there will be the option of Halal meat to those that want it. This will commence after February half term as they need to buy additional equipment and train up their staff. A letter and leaflet will go out in January with more information.

Year 4 and 5 go and see Shrek!
On Wednesday, Year 4 and 5 went to see Shrek at the Merton Art Centre. This was a free performance and I know the children had a wonderful time.
Young Wimbledon Artists
We know we have some fabulous artists at Hollymount and it is great to see that they have been recognized on a far grander stage. Sarah, Christian and Kitty were all winners in the Young Wimbledon Artist awards. Congratulations to all.

Holidays during term time
I wrote in the newsletter earlier this term that holidays during term time are very much frowned upon and will be unauthorised. However, it seems that this did not sink in. I am shocked by the unprecedented number of parents that take children out of school for holidays. Visiting family abroad or going earlier because it is cheaper is not a valid reason and the absence will be unauthorised. I do realise that this only applies to a minority of parents and thank those that understand how disruptive this is to not only the teachers but also the children. They not only miss important learning (and therefore have gaps in their learning) but they miss out on experiences that only the end of term can provide.

End of term assembly
Next Friday, there will be a special end of term assembly. Value certificates will be given out as usual alongside a number of other awards, including our brand new House Cup, Values Cup and Academic Achievement Cup. Parents are of course invited. Warning: it might be a long one!

Parking across drives
I have been contacted by a frustrated neighbour because a parent was parked across their drive stopping them from getting to an appointment. Please show our school value of ‘respect’ and do not park across driveways – even for a couple of minutes. Thank you.

Year 5 gardeners at Holland Garden
As part of the Community Explorers topic, the children went to Holland Garden to plant bulbs, which will flower in spring time. We have been working with the Friends of Holland Garden who have provided all the bulbs and cleared the area in preparation. The children the went over and planted 250 bulbs in one of the flowers beds. The children have designed posters to promote respecting the area. The Friends of Holland Garden provided 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes and runner up prizes. The posters will be displayed in Holland Garden. Thank you to the parent volunteers, as without them it wouldn't have been possible.

Thoughtful Yr 4s
Last Friday, a group of Year 4 children ran a cake sale to raise money for Homeless Link. This was done off their own back and we are very proud of them for raising over £100. Well done.

Library
Books
Do you have any Hollymount Library books at home? Please bring them back before the end of term. You can leave them at any time in the box next to Mr Birnage’s office.

School Ends at 2pm on Friday 21st December. Don’t be late picking your children up!
Our Local Co-op held a payout celebration on 24th November to thank all their members for helping to raise over £7,000 for local charities. Hollymount School have received £2,500 from the Co-op over the last year which helped us fund the new facilities in the playground. Several pupils (Mia Louw, Zoe Louw, Felicity Killeen & Brendan Killeen), PTA Members and Hollymount staff attended the fun event. As the photo shows they were very excited to receive a cheque from the Co-op! (the cheque showed the whole £7k which Hollymount received £2,500 of it)

A Big Thank You to Co-op and their members for all your support this year and going forward!

Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday, 20th December

It’s Mufti Day, so students can come dressed in their festive jumper.
A suggested voluntary £1 will be collected at the school entrance. All donations will be given to Wimbledon Guild. Voted by the students of Hollymount as the charity of the year, Wimbledon Guild’s mission is to provide people in Merton with help and support in times of need. As Christmas is drawing is near, it is timely to remember those less fortunate living very close to us. Charity starts from home. Our donation will be contributed to: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/TurningLivesAround
Dear Parents of Hollymount,

Thank you, parents who have generously contributed and supported the match funding scheme.

We continue to welcome parent fund contributions through Local giving who is a trusted charity partner.

Local giving is a one stop shop helping us with processing and also managing Gift Aid (which is an additional 25% to your donation at no extra expense to you as a tax payer).

It’s only 5 simple steps:
1. Go to at https://localgiving.org/charity/hollymountpta/
2. Please choose Give Monthly (this will be match funded)
3. Provide an email and password to register or Log in with existing password
4. Have your bank account details handy to create Direct Debit
5. Confirm. Complete gift aid information (if eligible)

Note: We will remind and inform you in 12 months to renew or cancel your contribution

What is Gift Aid:
Gift Aid is an income tax relief designed to benefit charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs). If you’re a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid increases the value of your charity donations by 25%, because the charity can reclaim the basic rate of tax on your gift – at no extra cost to you.

Please claim
Your child’s lost property before term ends
21st Dec
(located at entrance to tea timers)

Have a Fantastic Weekend!